

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated May 31, 2005. Claims 1-30 were pending in the original application, however, claims 1-6 and 17-20 were withdrawn from consideration. In the Office Action, claims 7-16 and 21-26 were rejected and claims 7-14 were objected to. In this Amendment, claims 7-14 were amended. Claims 7-16 and 21-26 thus remain for consideration and are ready for an Interference Proceeding with Lacchetti et al.

Applicant submits that claims 7-14 and 21-26 are in condition for allowance and requests withdrawal of the objections in light of the following remarks.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to because Figures 4A-4D and 5 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated.

Figures 4A-4D and 5 have been corrected, therefore, the above objections should be removed. Replacement drawings are attached to this amendment.

Objection to the Specification

Applicant has updated the status of the priority statement to reflect the issuance of the parent, application no. 09/988,904 as U.S. Pat. No. 6,708,525.

Objection to the Claims

Claim 7 was objected to because there should be an --and-- between the last two method steps.

Claims 8-14 were objected to as being of improper dependant form.

Claims 7-14 have been corrected, therefore, the above objections should be removed.

§ 112 Rejections

Claim 28 was rejected because there was insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation “the first machine” in line 2.

Claim 28 has been corrected, therefore, Applicant believes the above rejection should be traversed.

§§ 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 21-25 and 26-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2002/0029476 and/or U.S. Pat No. 6,601,301 to Lacchetti et al. (hereinafter, “Lacchetti”).

Claims 7-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2002/0029476 in view of U.S. Pat. 450,412 to Knight and U.S. Pat 5,611,14 to Gusky.

Applicant believes claims 7-16 and 21-26 have priority over the Examiner’s primary reference -- the Lacchetti patent -- because Applicant filed their original application on March 28, 2000 which is before Lacchetti filed their application on September 10, 2001.

Since Applicant filed their original application before Lacchetti, the Lacchetti patent cannot be used as a proper 102(e) rejection against the present application. Applicant, therefore, believes that claims 71-6 and 21-26 are patentable over Lacchetti, Knight and Gusky.

Interference

Applicant respectfully requests an Interference Proceeding be provoked regarding the Lacchetti patent.

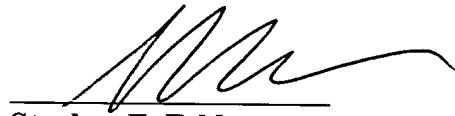
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims now pending in the application are ready for an interference proceeding with Lachetti, which action is earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 06-0515.

Respectfully submitted,



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